



southern california dx club

DECEMBER 2002

Discovering Corsica The TK4Z Story

What attracted the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Imperial Romans, Goths, Byzantines, Saracens, Genoese, Spaniards, and French to the wild, rugged island of Corsica? Slave Gathering? Trade Expansion? Territorial Conquest? Worldwide DX Contesting? ...Well, it certainly was the latter that attracted our perennial ham radio contest group to this "mountain in the sea".

Discover Corsica for yourself at this month's Holiday Party. Join noted photographer and raconteur Art Goddard, W6XD, for an illustrated tour of this remarkable land and its proud people. Find out how a roving group of 50- and 60-something's reached the "Big 4-Oh" on Corsica and pick up a few tips on having fun with Ham Radio. Here's a program for the whole family – don't miss out!



Corsican Watchtower – historically where sentries were posted to warn of pirates, raiders and invaders coming by sea...



What a view!

Soap Box— Words from our President

KJ6Y, Skip



This month is our annual Holiday Party.

In a change from previous years, we are have a Sunday Brunch. Herb, with the help of Sharon "Wild Woman" Spring and Charlotte, KB6FXS, has found a fabulous place in the Orange Hill Restaurant. He promises great food, great prizes, and great programs. Be sure to get your RSVP in early.

I was working out of town in Texas for a few days and spent a fair amount of time on the radio. Didn't hear too many from the west coast and when I did they were usually mobile or no packet, so couldn't get announced. Would have liked to work some of the club members. Maybe next trip.

The current board is making up the slate for next year. Elections are at the January meeting. If you are interested in running for an officer or board member, be sure to contact Herb or myself. Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

The Holiday season is here and I would like to wish Happy Hanukah, Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year to all. Good DX to all,

DUES ARE DUE!

Club dues must be paid by Dec 31. So — send a check now. 2003 dues are still \$18. Checks should be sent to Treasurer Cathy Gardenias, 1873 N Dundee, Highland, CA 92346

de the Veep

KG6OK, Herb

Thanks to Chuck — KR6C for the great presentation on Topband DXing from the Saltdale salt flats. Chuck had operated a couple of topband contest from Saltdale along with Earl — K6SE and Will — K6NDV over the past couple of years. It was very interesting to hear about how they used their phased 160 meter vertical array from this location. This guy put out an unbelievable signal from this location, and it was very interesting to learn more about how they did it.



Here is your final reminder.... This year's Holiday Party will be on Sunday afternoon, December 8, 2002 at the Orange Hill Restaurant, in the city of Orange. The Party will go from 11:00am to 3:00pm. The main presentation will be from Art Goddard — W6XD. Art will be talking about his recent DXpedition to TK4Z, with some other surprises to boot...

The Orange Hill Restaurant is a fantastic hill top location in Orange County, about 3-4 miles east of the 55 freeway on Chapman Ave. So you may want to bring your portable HF radios with you, because we may just have a competition to see who can work the best DX from this super location!! We will also be announcing the proposed slate of officers for the 2003 SCDXC Board of Directors. In addition, open nominations can be submitted for any of the board positions, so if you are interested in nominating someone for a Board position, please let Skip or myself know.

So be sure to get your reservations and checks (\$30.00 / person) sent off to Cathy — K6VC ASAP. (See reservation form in this newsletter).

Come join us there to help us finish up another fantastic year for the SCDXC!!!

Next General Meeting

The SCDXC meets the second Thursday of the month. **There will be no General meeting in December—Come to the Holiday Party!** Our next General meeting will be held January 10, 2003 at Syd Kronenthal Park in Culver City. The park is located 4 blocks west of La Cienega Blvd. and 2 blocks south of Washington Blvd. From the 10 Freeway exit La Cienega south to Washington Blvd. Turn right (west) 4 blocks to McManus Ave (it's La Cienega Ave to the right, McManus to the left). Turn left (south) 2 blocks to the Park. The street dead-ends at the parking lot. Please do not park in the school lot.

MINUTES of the November 2002 Meeting de N6DHZ



Another good turnout this month, I understand that the Deli was standing room only.

The search party sent out last month to find the missing Carl, WU6D and Cathy, K6VC. came up empty handed. Although their was a rumor that Kathy and Carl were spotted a few Saturdays ago in the Whittier area. Herb, KG6OK noted it was strange

they should be seen in the only place in Southern California that is not close to any freeway.

We had I believe Two guests this month Bob, K6RR and Gabriel, KO6N. Hopefully both of you will join us again soon.

Our own Chuck, KR6C gave an interesting talk on working 160m on salt. No not "Strategic Arms Limitations Treaty. But salt as in the salt flats of Saltdale, CA. Chuck along with Will, K6ND (ex K6NDV), and Earl, K6SE made the trip to Saltdale for the 1999 Stew Perry Topband Distance Challenge using phased 70ft verticals on a huge salt flat. Nothing like having three old salts on the salt on 160m.

The "BIG" prize This month was a Peet Bros. 2100 Ultimeter, that was won by Steve, WB6RSE. Skip once again the

bucket duty filling in for Charlotte, KB6FXS (Note to Charlotte we need you back guarding the bucket as some of the Guys are trying to bend the tickets again). One other nice prize for the evening was the MFJ-890 DX Beacon Monitor that was won by Gabriel, KO6N.

Don't forget the Holiday Party is December 08. Get you reservations early.

40 Zones in CQWWDX test

The SCDXC congratulates the gang who put TK on the air this past contest. This was a special achievement for N6AA who now has worked the contest from ALL 40 ZONES.

Art, W6XD, will tell the story at the Holiday Party.



N6AA operating TK for 40th Zone



Art, W6XD, will tell the story.

Elections

The annual club elections will take place at the January General Meeting.

Here is the proposed slate for next year.

President, Herb Rosenberg, KG6OK
Vice President, Cathy Gardenias, K6VC
Secretary, Jim Shryne, N6DHZ
Treasurer, Paul Lawrance, N6AV
Membership and Newsletter, Harvey Shore, K6EXO
Director. Charlotte Iseda, KB6FXS
Director, Larry Mallek, K6YUI
Director (Past President), Skip Bolnick, KJ6Y

Nominations can also be submitted and taken from the floor.

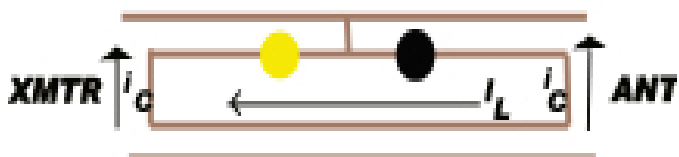
You must be a paid up member to vote. Dues are due NOW!

Ham Puzzle

By Milt, W6RJO

Answer to last months question

For a given polarity across a line terminated, in its matched impedance, the capacitively coupled currents between the line and the loop, shunt the line through the loop ends in the same direction. However, the inductively coupled currents induced in the loop travel out of phase, adding to the capacitively coupled currents on the transmitter side of the loop, while canceling the current on the antenna side. Thus, the XMTR bulb is lit, and the ANT bulb is dark. When not matched to the antenna, the capacitive and inductive currents are not in the proper phase and of different strengths, so that both bulbs light.



Can you do this Math?

"Frequency Digit Mix-up" The old timer op told the novice op to look for him on a scheduled frequency. Novice op unfortunately misremembered the six digit frequency {three MHz digits, decimal point, 3 kHz digits} by interchanging the kHz digit string with the MHz string. Of course, when the novice listened for the old timer and hearing nothing, he happened to tune 5 kHz lower. Lo and behold, there was the old timer, but on his second harmonic. On what frequency was the old timer transmitting?



Propagation December 2002

by Shel, W6EL

These predictions for the five prime HF bands show the times when propagation is expected to be best from Los Angeles to several locations that are expected to be active during the coming month. Other times are possible, but with weaker signals or lower probability. Openings are not expected on bands that are not listed. A solar flux of 170, corresponding to a sunspot number of 121, and an average geomagnetic field are assumed. Sunrise/sunset times are at the DX location. All times are UTC.

Good luck and good DX from Shel, W6EL.

FS St. Martin - 12/4 to 12/11 - Beam 93 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 12/8) 1035/2134
80: 0300-1000.
40: 0100-1030.
20: 2230-0200.
15: 1430-2330.
10: 1530-2200.



PY0 Fernando de Noronha - 12/08 to 12/16 - Beam 95 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 12/12) 0757/2010
80: 0330-0730.
40: 0130-0800.
20: 2300-0300 and 0830-0900.
15: 1430-0100.
10: 1500-2330.

8P Barbados - 12/10 to 12/17 - Beam 96 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 12/14) 1016/2130
80: 0330-0930.
40: 0130-1000.
20: 2300-0300.
15: 1430-2400.
10: 1500-2230.

6W Senegal - 12/14 to 12/26 - Beam 71 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 12/20) 0727/1837
80: 0330-0630.
40: 0130-0730.
20: 2300-0200.
15: 1430-0030.
10: 1530-2330.

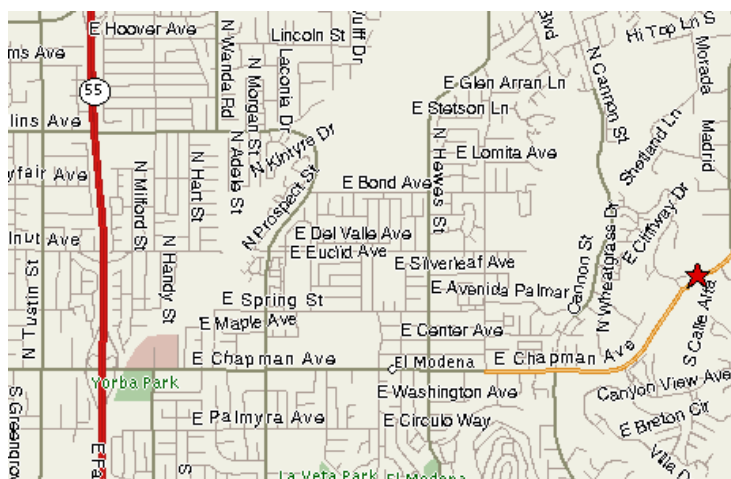
JD1 Ogasawara - 12/27 to 1/4 - Beam 297 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 12/31) 2120/0747
80: 0900-1500.
40: 0730-1530
20: 1530-1630 and 0430-0530.
15: 2030-0300.
10: 2130-0130.



Holiday Party Will Feature Food!

This year's Holiday Party will be on Sunday afternoon, **December 8, 2002** at the Orange Hill Restaurant, in the city of Orange. The Party will go from 11:00am to 3:00pm + - QRM. We decided to have a Sunday brunch this year for the Holiday Party, to allow more time and more people to come without having to worry about driving back and forth at night, etc. When we

say brunch, we mean BRUNCH. I think there are over 130 items on the brunch menu, so I promise you will not leave hungry. The Orange Hill Restaurant is a fantastic hill top location in Orange County, about 3-4 miles east of the 55 freeway on Chapman Ave. So you may want to bring your portable HF radios with you, because we may just have a competition to see who can work the best DX from this super location!! There will be some great major prizes too, to finish of another fantastic year for the SCDXC!!!



**Date: - Sunday,
December 8, 2002**
Time: - 11:00am - 3:00pm
Orange Hill Restaurant
6410 E Chapman
Orange, CA 92669
714 997-2910

Sit down Sunday Brunch (all you can eat) including fantastic soups, salads, appetizers, omelets, en-

tries, desserts, beverages, etc. Special Major Raffle Prizes, and great presentation. Casual attire.

Cost = \$30.00 per person

Name: _____ **Call:** _____

Number of reservations: _____

Send checks to: Cathy Gardenias, 1873 N Dundee, Highland, CA 92346

Reservations are due on Dec 2, 2002



A Lightweight Portable Delta Loop

de N6IC



N6IC with 10 Mtr Delta Loop.

In the last several years, I have had fun going to some easy to reach islands to operate for the IOTA award activity. Each time, one objective has been to travel lightweight but with a simple but effective antenna. The delta loop antenna is a very effective antenna and since I was traveling with others, I didn't need a multi-band antenna since yagis were transported. However, I did need the extra single band antenna for the last rig of the group operation. The first trip was to Catalina Island, off the coast of California near Los Angeles in 1999. We had so much fun that Catalina Island was visited again in 2000 and Santa Rosa Island was visited in 2001.

In IOTA lists, Catalina Island is NA-066 and Santa Rosa Island is NA-144. Santa Rosa Island is considered rarer than Catalina. It is also more challenging as a camping trip rather than a nice comfy cabin on Catalina. The first figure shows the portable delta loop set up in 1999. It

was a simple 'Y' frame made out of plastic PVC pipe that held the wire loop. The mount then was any spot where you could have a vertical pipe tied down. In this case, there was a water pipe out in the yard that allowed us to use three plastic wraps to hold the vertical mounting pipe in place. The antenna was then tied with string up on the frame to hold the loop in position or rotating it to a new direction. Weakness in the 'Y' made me plan for a different frame on the next trip but with a loop on 10 meters, the 5 watt QRP FT-817 worked into Europe just fine in the morning openings. This antenna theoretically has about 2.1 dBi gain bi-directional to the face of the loop.

Mechanical Details: The antenna had to be quite portable and light as I wanted to have it as part of a backpack that carried the whole trip's items from clothes to operational equipment. You have seen the first loop made with series 200 PVC pipe and the common PVC fittings to form a loop when put together. No piece was longer than four feet. The loop for 28 MHz was made with number 18 enamel covered copper wire. The loop and quarter wave coax transformer then easily folded and fit inside one of the four-foot sections of PVC.

Reading World Radio one day, I noticed an ad for 20 foot long lightweight graphite expanding tapered tubes that would make an ideal extension for the 'Y'. This meant I needed a way of holding the base of the tubes. My dear friend,

KR6AL/Frank, was an engineer with the shop to weld up a neat mounting fixture that would hold the base of two tubes at the right angle for the delta. Note the details in the figure 2:

Starting at the left end, the pole holder is seen as a Y mount with a central half inch square post that can be pounded into the ground or inserted into an above ground mounting position like a fence pole. The same piece is seen with one pole end set on the mounting Y. The pole to the right of the Y show the tapered end and swedge ends of the pole. When transporting, there is a cap for each end. The white poles are from the first Y holder as seen in figure 1. In the last pole on the right the end of the 10 Mtr loop and quarter wave transformer is seen pulled out slightly from its stored position. Figure 3 shows the graphite pole delta loop mounted on a fence post.

When assembling the antenna, the parts are laid out on the ground; the poles assembled by pulling out the tapers to a tight swedge; taping the sections to avoid slippage; tying the loop to its mounting points with string; adding string ties up on the support to position the loop when erected; picking up the loop at the base Y mount pole and mounting it; and positioning the loop with the string leads. The string leads can be tied to almost any point because the loop weighs less than 2 pound and is nicely stiff because of the tapered elements.

Electrical Details: Delta Loop antennas have been around for quite awhile. There are many articles on the electrical properties and performance. The loop impedance is nominally 110 ohms. This requires an impedance transformer for the use of 52-ohm standard coax and transmitter match. A 75-ohm coax one quarter of a wavelength long



Figure 2. Antenna Parts displayed and unpacked.

does a nice job matching the transformer. (Don't forget to use the right coax material velocity factor to calculate the length).

The loop is a broadband radiator. When matched for 28 MHz band it is less than 1.5:1 across the band. My loop was 37.5 feet long, which gives the formula:

$$\text{Loop Length (Feet)} = 1069 / \text{Frequency (MHz)}$$



Figure 3 Fence Mounted Delta Loop

Next Time: This antenna worked very well. Of course, ten meters was open which is the great equalizer of any antenna. The mechanical package was the best feature of the antenna. With the 20-foot poles, it was easy to add



Figure 4 Golf Bag Carrier for Amateur Stuff

bands by just adding loops and very much like a quad, the loop could be multi-looped for multi-bands.

Next time, the antenna must always fit in the traveling package and as seen in Figure 4, there is room. The other antenna I am working on is a wire log periodic that will be equally lightweight but add the broader frequency coverage.

P5/4L4FN QRT!

Ed, P5/4L4FN, informed the DX world that North Korea is off the air.

Friday evening, 2002 November 22, Ed was called into a meeting with the "Radio Regulation Board" without any explanation, he was politely asked to quit all transmissions and pack all his radio equipment. Saturday, he spent all day on the roof disassembling his antennas and packing boxes. At 2:30pm one of the government officials came by, sealed all the boxes and when he leaves on December 10 for his two weeks R&R he is to take everything with him out of the country.

Ed will keep all the equipment for his next duty station. Any money received from now on will be donated to help ZL1AMO's emergency air ambulance trip from Fiji back home.

Web Controlled Radio

Did you know that you (or anyone) can access a short-wave radio, tune it to any frequency you choose (within the radio's range) and listen to the sound.

Although you can control the radio and choose any frequency you want, if you don't know where a station is located, you might like to check the last few frequencies chosen by other users. You will need Real Audio loaded on your computer.

<http://www.chilton.com/scripts/radio/live-audio.au.com>

At this time the web page does not support transmitting. But, do not be surprised if that function is added. This should be a great way to build your score for all band DXCC or to beat those East Coast stations in the next contest.

In this Season of Light we wish you and yours Happy Holidays.

Our Prayer is for Peace in the World!



REDUCE SPAM

Always use BLIND CARBON COPY, Bcc, rather than OPEN MAILING LISTS.

Bob White, W1CW, SK

"Mr. DXCC", Robert L. White, W1CW, died November 22 from complications arising from pneumonia. He was 83. Bob was the manager of the ARRL's DX Century Club program from 1952 until 1976, establishing the award--and its stringent standards. During his tenure at Headquarters, White also oversaw the ARRL QSL Service. He belonged to the ARRL for 62 years and was a Life Member. His wife Ellen, W1YL, and his son Jim, K4OJ, survive him.

Ron ZL1AMO critically ill

A message from Ron Wright's, ZL1AMO, daughter tells us that Ron was taken from Fiji by air ambulance. He is on life support and in critical condition. No further information was given.

Ron has provided us with new ones in the Pacific area for many years.

We wish him a speedy recovery.

DX Convention 2003

The 54th annual International DX Convention will be at the Holiday Inn Plaza Park in Visalia, California on May 2, 3 and 4, 2003. The Northern California DX Club will sponsor the event.

For registration information see the DCDXC convention web site at:

www.ncdxc.org/ncdxc/convention.

SURFING THE INTERNET

EVERYONE PLEASE PUT YOUR HANDS ON YOUR MONITOR AND REPEAT THESE WORDS WITH ME:

1. I will NOT get bad luck, lose my friends, or lose my mailing lists if I DON'T forward an email!

2. I will NOT hear any music or see a taco dog, if I do forward an e-mail.

3. Bill Gates is NOT going to send me money & Victoria's Secret doesn't know anything about a gift certificate they're supposed to send me.

4. Ford will NOT give me a 50% discount even if I forward my e-mail to more than 50 people!

5. I will NEVER receive gift certificates, coupons, or freebies from Coca-Cola, Cracker Barrel, Old Navy, OutBack Steak House, Abercrombie & Fitch or anyone else if I send an e-mail to 10 people.

6. I will NEVER see a pop-up window if I forward an e-mail... NEVER--NEVER!!

7. There is NO SUCH THING as an e-mail tracking program, and I am not gullible enough to think that someone will send me \$100 for forwarding an email to 10 or more people!

8. There is NO kid with cancer through the Make-a-Wish program in England collecting anything! He did when he was 7 or 8 years old. He is now cancer-free and 35 years old and DOESN'T WANT ANYMORE POST CARDS or GET-WELL CARDS.

9. The government does not have a bill in Congress called 601B (or whatever they named it this week) that if passed, will enable them to charge us 5 cents for every e-mail we send.

10. There will be NO cool dancing, singing, waving, colorful flowers, characters, or program that I will receive immediately after I forward an e-mail....NONE, ZIP, ZERO, NADA!!

11. The American Red Cross will NOT donate 50 cents to a certain individual, dying of some never-heard-of disease for every e-mail address I send this to. The American Red Cross RECEIVES donations.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Yearly dues for the SCDXC must be paid by December 31 or you will be considered delinquent. Please send your 18 dollar check to Cathy ASAP. Include your email address.

WANTED

Articles and photos are wanted for the SCDXC newsletter. A new antenna, a tower, a grand baby, a rare QSL, a fun story? Send stuff to the editor. The more you send in, the better our newsletter is!

Who We Are

The SCDXC Newsletter is published monthly by the Southern California DX Club and is e-mailed to all club members.

Please notify the editor if you do not receive your newsletter, have a change of address, or have found an error.

Please direct all submissions to the editor.

The SCDXC generally permits reuse of any article in the Newsletter as long as the newsletter and the article's author are credited. However, some articles may be copyrighted by the author. Please contact the editor.

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145.48 MHz, 100 Hz PL
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6433 Pat Ave
West Hills, CA 91307
(818) 716-5681
E-mail: K6EXO@arrl.net

For Sale

Icom 37A 220 transceiver

Astron 20 Amp Power Supplies

Contact K6EXO@arrl.net for full details

Spotting Derby

We have been unable to get full records of spots made by members. This is due to a breakdown in parts of the network and the move of the LAX node.

Major modifications are underway to rebuild the "backbone" and the move of the LAX node is "in process". When these projects are completed the derby will run again!

We are on the World Wide Web

The address for the SCDXC web page is:
www.scdxc.org

Check it often for late breaking club news.



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COMMUNICATIONS
SERVICE COMPANY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION, New or Renewal

Return to club treasurer: **Cathy Gardenias** 1873 North Dundee, Highland, CA 92346

CALL _____ NAME _____ DATE _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

HOME TELEPHONE (____) ____ - _____ WORK TELEPHONE (____) ____ - _____

SCDXC Dues are \$18.00 per year, make checks payable to SCDXC